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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Iceland, Guatemala, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Panama and Thailand: revised draft resolution

Integrating volunteering in the next decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/67 of 5 December 2011 on the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers,

Recognizing that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, education, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, social integration, social welfare, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, and acknowledging also the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, and the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the national, regional and global levels,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Volunteers of the first *State of the World's Volunteerism Report*,[1] which highlights the global recognition of volunteerism, with its core values of solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, social inclusion and empowerment, as well as its positive effects on individual, community and societal well-being, and commending the United Nations Volunteers programme for taking the lead in producing the report,

Welcoming the creation of momentum in developing common platforms to increase support for volunteerism through the observance of the tenth anniversary of

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.I.12.

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the International Year of Volunteers in 2011, and urging all stakeholders to accelerate the momentum in the recognition, promotion, facilitation and networking of volunteerism and, in this regard, to renew their efforts for the integration of volunteering,

Commending the increasing link between volunteerism and sports, which, through the invaluable contributions of national and international volunteers to the preparation and the organization of major sporting events, contributes to the promotion of the ideal of peace,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Commends* the contributions from national and international volunteers for their fundamental role in the promotion of peace and development;

3. *Congratulates* the 70,000 national and international volunteers whose contributions were fundamental to the success of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as the thousands of others who gave their time to support the Games, and looks forward to the contributions of national and international volunteers at the 2014 World Soccer Cup and the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games;

4. *Calls upon* stakeholders to do their utmost to strengthen the policy relating to volunteering, including youth volunteering, at the local, national and international levels, as well as integrating volunteering in all relevant issues of the United Nations as main objectives for the next decade;

5. *Emphasizes* the role of the community as volunteer-accepting stakeholder in efforts to overcome challenges and to retain ownership of the community, and calls for a people-centred, holistic approach in order to build an inclusive and resilient society, supported by a social bond among the people through community-based approaches that facilitate the integration of volunteers;

6. *Calls for* an approach to volunteering that draws on the notion of human security in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/290 of 10 September 2012;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the growth and the development of volunteerism since the International Year of Volunteers, and encourages Member States to consider peace and development programmes and initiatives that offer opportunities to build strong and cohesive volunteer coalitions around shared goals at the local, national, regional and international levels;

8. *Invites* Member States to mobilize and support the research community globally to carry out more studies on the subject of volunteerism, including collecting disaggregated data by gender, age and disability, in partnership with civil society, in order to provide sound knowledge as a foundation for policies and programmes;

9. *Calls upon* Member States and other stakeholders to favour the integrating of volunteering in all relevant issues of the United Nations, in particular to contribute to accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the elaboration of future sustainable development goals;

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[2] A/67/153.

10. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to create favourable and safe environments to enable a diversity of volunteers to participate in volunteer activities;

11. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with other volunteer-involving organizations to support efforts to enhance the security and protection of volunteers;

12. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with the international community and civil society, to promote volunteerism in all segments of society, recognizing the benefits of diverse life experiences to volunteerism, and to incorporate volunteerism into education curricula for all ages and into school-community engagements;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Volunteers to continue their efforts to promote volunteerism, including through the integration of volunteerism in peace and development as well as the development of innovative recruitment modalities, such as online volunteering;

14. *Calls on* organizations in the United Nations system to continue to assist in the promotion of the United Nations Volunteers and on development partners and all Member States in a position to do so to increase funding to the Special Voluntary Fund to conduct research and training, to undertake pilot innovations and to explore other funding modalities;

15. *Emphasizes* that volunteerism offers valuable opportunities for youth engagement and leadership to contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies, while also allowing young people to acquire skills, build their capacities and increase their employability;

16. *Urges* the United Nations Volunteers and other relevant United Nations organizations to promote a youth volunteer programme called for in the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, also urges all stakeholders to promote youth volunteering, including through the programme, in cooperation with the United Nations system and invites Member States to consider voluntary contributions to the youth volunteering trust fund for the purpose of the programme;

17. *Recognizes* the important role played by women volunteers, inter alia, in meeting women's needs, and encourages women's leadership and participation in all forms of volunteering;

18. *Reaffirms* the need to encourage volunteerism in all its forms, which contributes significantly to the cohesiveness and the well-being of communities and of societies as a whole and which involves and benefits all segments of society, especially women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

19. *Encourages* Member States to support intergenerational solidarity and knowledge transmission through volunteering programmes;

20. *Encourages* Member States to promote, where appropriate, further engagement of the private sector, through the expansion of corporate volunteering and employee volunteer activities, as well as increased coordination between the private and public sectors;

21. *Encourages* all stakeholders to recognize the importance of coordinating between the skills and the experience of the volunteers and the actual needs in the community, and emphasizes the need to bridge volunteering gaps;

22. *Emphasizes* that people-to-people relations are the core value of volunteerism, and encourages further efforts to build and strengthen networks among volunteers and all relevant partners at the national, regional and international levels, including World Volunteer Web as a global networking hub, as well as new technologies and social media;

23. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to integrate volunteering in disaster risk reduction, thereby reflecting the issues discussed in the thematic debate on disaster risk reduction at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in April 2012 and in the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku in July 2012, which include the involvement of volunteers in planning, the importance of education, training and volunteer-based disaster response, including voluntary evacuation;

24. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to integrate volunteering in peacebuilding activities, thereby, inter alia, making more effective use of volunteers, including international United Nations Volunteers, and reflecting the importance of mobilizing and building the capacity of young people;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Social development", on the implementation of the present resolution, including a plan of action to be developed by the United Nations Volunteers programme to integrate volunteering in peace and development in the next decade and beyond, to be submitted to the General Assembly and to be considered by Member States.